

## Entertaining Angels

Pastor Pete Kontra

*"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."*

—Hebrews 13:2

How do you view the people around you? Just a stranger to be feared, or potential angel whom God loves? On **Saturday, February 23, 2013, 8:00am-12:00pm**, Fred Bernhard will be here with us at Hempfield to lead us in exploring why and how the practice of Biblical Hospitality is vital to our congregation's life. He will also expand that to include how we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the wider community in ways that invite rather than repel.

Sound familiar? Yes, that is the final thought of our vision statement, and our theme for 2013: "Powerfully Sharing Christ with the World."

**All of us here at Hempfield are invited** and encouraged to come out the 23<sup>rd</sup> and be a part of growing in Christ in this important way. It truly will be a good use of your time.

Just a little history...I have known Fred since my second year in seminary when he became my mentor and eventually close brother in Christ at Oakland Church of the Brethren in Ohio. As a pastor, God has given Fred a passion for biblical hospitality which he has pursued and practiced and taught congregations of all denominations for many years. He has written many books on hospitality, the first being "Widening the Welcome of Your Church."

Jesus showed love to all people. He came and tore down the social barriers that kept people from loving each other. He treated every person He met as if they were the most important person in the world. And for Jesus, each person is. Maybe simply put, **Hospitality is seeing every person as an opportunity to share the love of Jesus.** That affects all that we do, personally and as the church. **The church must be a safe place for people to come.** And it is us who must make it that. And we only know how well we do when someone very different from us walks into those doors.

**Jesus welcomed everyone right where they were in life.** The Bible tells us that Jesus came to us, the world, while we were yet sinners, enemies of God. God is love and has opened His love to all people in Christ that we all be welcomed in to His presence. And so for us as the Church, everything we do here needs to foster that. Every detail of every ministry, from the moment someone drives into the parking lot, to how they're greeted and everything that happens in between—every detail must be about striving to make all people feel welcome, like we truly want them here. Because we do.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believe in Him may not perish but have everlasting life."* Let's let everyone know it! Please join me February 23<sup>rd</sup>. See you then! -Pastor Pete

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# Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

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*"Do not be afraid--for I Myself will help you--declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." --Isaiah 41:14*

Yesterday morning my day didn't start so well—it was a continuation of the night before, which had become the day of, and I showed up at HCOB not ready to do much of anything useful. I felt like a 4<sup>th</sup>-generation photocopy of myself! So I stopped by Amy's office and asked her if she had any encouraging words. She reads the same Spurgeon devotional that I do, so she paused for a minute and asked if I had read it that morning.

(<http://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/morning-and-evening/>) So I did. Thanks, Amy! Here it is:

This morning, let us hear the Lord Jesus speak to each one of us:

"I Myself will help you. It is but a small thing for Me, your God, to help you. Consider what I have done already. What! Not help you? Why, I bought you with My blood. What! Not help you? Why, I have died for you! And if I have done the greater--will I not do the lesser? Help you? Before the world began--I chose you. I laid aside My glory and became a man for you. I gave up My life for you! And if I did all this--I will surely help you now. If you had need of a thousand times as much help--I would give it to you. You require little, compared with what I am ready to give. It is much for you to need--but it is nothing for Me to bestow.

What! Not help you? Fear not! If there were an ant at the door of your granary, asking for help--it would not ruin you to give him a handful of your wheat! Just so, you are nothing but a tiny insect at the door of My all-sufficiency!"

"I Myself will help you!" O my soul, is not this enough? Bring your empty pitcher here! Surely this well will fill it. Hasten! Gather up your needs, and bring them here--your emptiness, your woes, your troubles. Behold, this river of God is full for your supply. What more can you desire? The Eternal God is your helper! – C.H. Spurgeon

Pretty awesome. But how quickly we lose perspective! It's not that the problems we face aren't a big deal, because they do feel like that. For me, it's a little too much of the "Sunday school answer" to say, "I shouldn't worry about anything or get stressed because look at what Jesus had to endure—my problems are nothing in comparison." While that is certainly true, the reality is that we do get stressed and worried sometimes, no matter how mature in our faith we are or think that we are. We fail to seek shelter soon enough when we see the storm coming.

We need to constantly remind ourselves that God desires so deeply to help us. Psalm 46:1 says "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." I loved the image of myself as an ant—it's certainly no great effort, inconvenience, or expense for God to hand me a few kernels of wheat. All I have to do is knock on the door and ask! Not too complicated when you think about it. Only my flawed perspective and pride stand in the way. Go, little ant, go! There are a million ants like you, but for some reason each one is special to God. Go, little ant, go! Jesus has something for you.

# Messages in February

February 3

Clear  
as a  
Bell

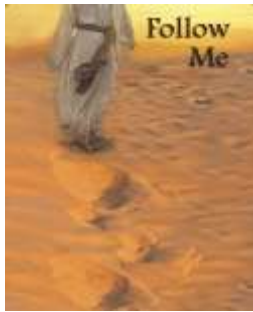


**Clear as a Bell—1Thessalonians 1:2-8a**

**Pastors Pete Kontra & Kent Rice Preaching**

*“The Lord’s message rang out from you.”* As disciples of Christ, we are sent by Him into the world. And we are sent with a purpose—to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians that the Lord’s message rang out from them for all to hear. That is evangelism. So how does the Lord’s message ring out from you?

February 10



**Follow Me—Luke 5:1-11, Mark 6:7-13, 30-31**

**Doug Hinton Preaching**

We will look at the importance of discipleship in Powerfully Sharing Christ with the World. Walking with one of the first disciples, we will explore the revolving process of seeking God, examining self, and carrying the message to those around us.

February 17

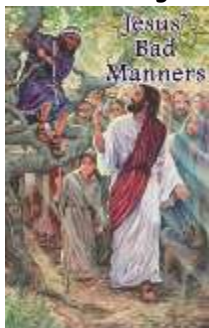


**Committed to...What?—Acts 2:42-47**

**Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching**

Being a Christian disciple is about committing to a way of life and of learning, growing, and following the example of Jesus Christ and his teachings. George Barna writes, “In one recent nationwide survey we asked people to describe their goals in life... Not one of the adults we interviewed said that their goal in life was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ or to make disciples... This survey included interviews with pastors and other church leaders as well as hundreds of people who regularly attend church services and programs...” What would your answer be? What is it you’re really committed to?

February 24



**Jesus’ Bad Manners—Luke 19:1-10**

**Fred Bernhard Preaching**

Using the story of Zacchaeus, Fred Bernhard will show us how Jesus came and tore down the social barriers that keep people from loving each other. He treated every person He met as if they were the most important person in the world. And for Jesus, each person is.

# February Ministry Schedules

February 3  
February 10  
February 17  
February 24

## NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy  
Lois Killian  
Steph Moyer  
Jody Kettering

## NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer, Morgan Rice  
Marg Zurin, Emmy & Dave Schott, Libby Rannels  
Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller, Libby Myers  
Betty Cox, Lydia & Sarah Fisher, Hilary Hoffman



February 3  
February 10  
February 17  
February 24

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell  
Matt Markey  
Dave Schott  
Rich & Jamie Bushong

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Jaynelle Troxell  
Rich Bushong & Jaynelle Troxell  
Rich & Jamie Bushong  
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong

February 3  
February 10  
February 17  
February 24

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Kent Rice  
Ray O'Boyle  
Cindy Harnish  
Dennis Hughes

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Ron Myer  
Micki Carper  
TBA  
TBA

## SPECIAL MUSIC



February 3  
February 10  
February 17  
February 24

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Kent Rice, Sanctuary Choir  
Vicki Smith  
Sanctuary Choir  
TBA

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Alex Troxell  
Derek Witmer  
Dave Bendit

February 3  
February 10  
February 17  
February 24

## DEACON GREETERS

Nancy Haas  
Millie Hoffman  
Ruth Johnson  
Wes Bowers

## JNH GREETERS

Earl & Betty Zimmerman  
Carl & Ellie Lehman  
Bob & Mary Lou Haldeman  
Nicolas & Joanna Huacani

## OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Marcia Root & alternate

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Doris Wright

# HCOB Adult Sunday School

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† **THE CHRISTIAN PATHFINDERS** class meets in the room across from the nursery, just outside the side door to the sanctuary. We study the International lesson. We have three or four regular teachers who each teach about one Sunday a month. We have several socials a year with the majority of our class participating. Our offerings are used for special needs within our congregation or community. The contact person is Ruth Johnson.

February 3	Focused Solely on Christ	Teacher: Denny Bushong
February 10	Raised with Christ	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
February 17	Clothed with Christ	Teacher: Jim Kettering
February 24	Combined Class with Fred Bernhard teaching	

† **THE HOME BUILDERS** class meets in the library. We study the International Lesson each quarter. Millie Hoffman is the contact person.

February 3	Focused Solely on Christ	Teacher: Pete Cope
February 10	Raised with Christ	Teacher: Dennis Bushong
February 17	Clothed with Christ	Teacher: Jim Kettering
February 24	Combined Class with Fred Bernhard teaching	

† **THE SEEKERS** class will be finishing the book of Galatians on February 3. On Feb 10 the class will be starting the book of Ephesians. If you have been thinking of joining a Bible Study, this would be a good opportunity to start. This will be a 13 week study. Contact person is Rich Bushong for questions. The class meets upstairs-3<sup>rd</sup> room on the right using the stairs nearest the narthex.

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class will continue to examine the scriptures relating to discipling that the pastors are using as their preaching texts. Each week, we're looking at the passages and trying to go deeper into the context, history, and application of each so that we all have a different way of hearing and applying the message. We meet in Chapel Hall. Geoff Davis is facilitator.

***Note:** February 24<sup>th</sup> will be a combined class with a special speaker Fred Bernhard who will be speaking on Biblical Hospitality.*

# HCOB Family News

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**BRETHREN VILLAGE MUSICAL PROGRAM**—Hempfield COB will be presenting a musical program at Brethren Village on Monday night Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Fieldcrest Auditorium. Please come out to support our musicians and to hear some of our favorite choir/orchestra numbers.

**FRIENDS TOGETHER WEEK**—June 10-14, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It's not too early to start thinking about Friends Together Week for the developmentally disabled. We are planning an exciting theme for this year and are looking for volunteers to serve one on one with camp individuals. So if you can spare a week, day or whatever your schedule permits to help with camp, please see Betty Cox, Gladys Ulmer, Ellie Lehman or Jean Caldwell.



*Girl's Night Out*



**GIRLS NIGHT OUT** will be at the church on Tues April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Mother/Daughter banquet event is being extended to all ladies in the congregation to have a fun evening socializing, eating, and being entertained. Mark your calendars now!

## Our Church Teams

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*This month we are highlighting the work of the Leadership Team.*

The Leadership Team is comprised of the chairs of the ministry teams, the pastors, the chair of the deacons, the church clerk, the moderator, the children's ministry coordinator, the financial secretary, the treasurer, and the Leadership Team chair. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month in Chapel Hall. Our administrative responsibilities include planning, coordinating, integrating, and supervising the ongoing programs of the congregation. We are also empowered, on behalf of the congregation, to facilitate the filling of vacancies of church employees and elected officials of the church. The Leadership Team is directly accountable to the Congregational Gathering.

This year we are going to begin with a Leadership Team retreat the beginning of this month to identify and prioritize our goals for 2013 and start discussions on the format of the Congregational Gathering, disciplining, adult education and the use of the church facilities. The fruits of the Spirit have been widely in evidence in our congregation and we intend to continue to encourage and facilitate servanthood in being our best ambassadors for Christ in the coming year.

# HCOB Calendar

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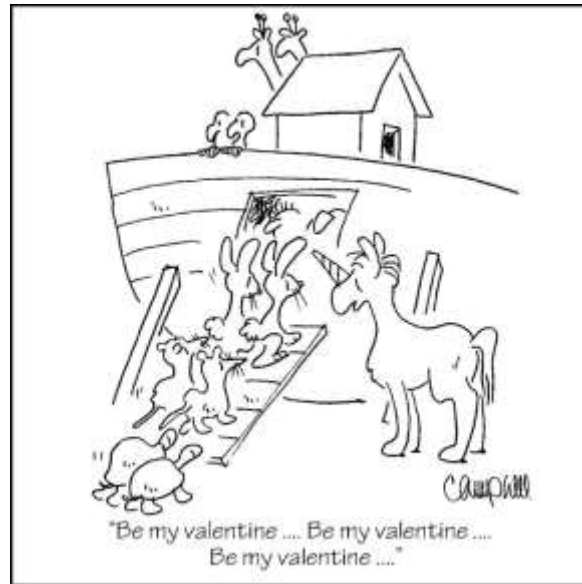
Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

for a full calendar of events

**Toon of  
The Month**



**Toon of  
The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 246  
East Petersburg, PA 17520

**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**



**FEBRUARY**